

34 Article amended Claims

1. (Amended) A printing system comprising a table for placing a medium to be printed thereon, and a carriage for shifting a nozzle head for ink jet printing, in relation to said table, in both a main scanning direction and an auxiliary scanning direction within a printable range on said table, said printing system further comprising:

a block extracting means for extracting areas to be printed from print data inputted and for decomposing the print data into blocks narrower than the printable range in both the main scanning direction and the auxiliary scanning direction; and

a control means for making the carriage and the nozzle head scan only within the blocks extracted and print the print data within the blocks extracted.

2. A printing system according to claim 1, characterized in that

said block extracting means comprises:

a boundary extracting means for extracting boundaries of the areas to be printed from the print data inputted at least in either the main scanning direction or the auxiliary scanning direction; and

a setting means for setting the blocks so that the blocks include the extracted boundaries.

3. (Amended) A printing system according to claim 2, characterized in that said setting means extracts start points and end points of the extracted boundaries, and points changing in position in a direction differing from directions of the boundaries by a predetermined distance or over between the start points and the end points, to set the blocks including the respective extracted points.

4. A printing system according to claim 1, characterized in that each of said blocks is set as a rectangle sides parallel to the main scanning direction or the auxiliary scanning direction.

5. A printing system according to claim 1, characterized in that the block extracting means is inputted with a preview image of print data to extract blocks from the preview image.

6. (Amended) A printing method using a printer comprising a table for placing a medium to be printed thereon and a carriage for shifting a nozzle head for ink jet printing, in relation to said table, in both a main scanning direction and an auxiliary scanning direction within a printable range, said printing method further comprising:

a step for extracting areas to be printed from print data inputted and for decomposing the print data into blocks narrower than the printable range in both the main scanning direction and the auxiliary scanning direction; and

a step for making the carriage and the nozzle head scan only within the blocks extracted and print the print data within the blocks extracted.

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